

Briefly Told

A Scottish newspaper has adopted the unusual service of sending Scotch heather to Scots exiled in America and other parts of the world. Every week the paper prints a column of letters from American recipients. Brides prefer it to orange blossoms.

The British evacuation of Russia is now complete.

The anti-tobacco campaign is not new. The British Anti-Tobacco and Anti-Narcotic League has had a long career. British expenditures for the weed last year amounted to \$1,212,050,000.

Dean Inge has challenged A. Conan Doyle as a physician to deny that Spiritualism involves a peril to mental, moral and spiritual life.

Liquor exports from the United States in the first six months of 1919 were 19 times as great as imports. Very great quantities of American liquor are going to Asia, Africa and the Pacific Islands. Against Japan's legalized traffic in morphine and the oceans of American whisky now being poured upon her people, China has issued a warning and a protest.

South American countries draw no race lines; which explains the very large immigration of Japanese. Equal rights are accorded Orientals. Japan has concluded a migration treaty with Paraguay.

French Government officials have discovered that millions of francs' worth of American army food, left in France for the people of the devastated regions, have been illegally sold in Germany. Thousands of tons of lard and bacon intended for the French people have been coaxed into Germany by payment of abnormal profits.

On a voyage of 110 days during the war, a single ship earned \$800,000, so high were ocean transportation rates, according to testimony given a Senate committee.

Luther Burbank is under contract with Japanese silk manufacturers to produce for them a superior mulberry tree.

For the first time in the history of the Lord Mayor's Procession, in London, ladies this year participated on horseback.

"Tennyson," said Viscount Bryce in an Edinburgh lecture, "has been dethroned as infected too much by conventionality."

A single oak of fair proportions will lift 123 tons of water during its leafy months.

The spinet acquired its name from the spines which plucked the strings when it was played.

The new German Government has passed a bill requiring public prosecutors to move against all Germans accused of crime in occupied territory during the war.

The American Peace Delegation came home in a body during December.

France has announced her willingness to trade with Germany, no formalities of resumption being required.

The Cloth Hall and Cathedral at Ypres will not be restored if the Belgian National Congress of Architects have their way about it. The ruins will be kept as a perpetual reminder of the terribleness of war.

Albert Einstein, whose theory of the influence of gravity on light has aroused world-wide scientific interest, is a Jew and an ardent Zionist.

An Irish chaplain has just escaped serious punishment by a British court-martial because he was able to show that his alleged disloyal words were uttered not against "King" George but "Lloyd" George.

The German Government has entered upon relief work for Vienna. Every bread card issued in Germany is decreased by 134 ounces, and the flour thus saved is sent to the Austrian hungry.

Tropical trees are said to give many signs of weariness at the end of every day. The trees of the tropics have no winter's rest, and the intense heat makes them work continuously hard.

The population of London's slums has been found to be 184,000.

The Shakespeare hotel at Stratford-on-Avon, erected in the 14th century, has been sold for \$272,500.

Norman Angell stated in a lecture at Manchester, England, that the American Navy was today a greater fighting machine than was the British Navy.

The housing situation in Great Britain would be simpler if it were not for the prejudice against "wooden houses." Just now the newspapers are educating the people to the fact that "more than half the population of America lives in wooden houses which are found to be quite comfortable." To the Britisher a house is not a house unless it be of brick or stone.

The body of Adelina Patti is to be removed to France for permanent interment in Pere La Chaise Cemetery, Paris.

Belgium has definitely refused to return to her former status as a neutral state.

It is curious to consider how terms are chosen. Among its opponents in America the liquor interest was known as the "traffic" and by its friends and members as the "business." In Britain it is known as the "trade."

London postmen threaten a strike because the authorities refused them permission to accept "Christmas boxes" this year.

A Massachusetts prisoner manufactured 2,000 papier-mâché canes in his spare time during 17 years of imprisonment.

The most noticeable result of the Boston police strike is that there are now very few obese "bay windows" on the force.

The Radicals of Lawrence, Mass., have opened a Sunday school where children are taught the principles of Bolshevism.

Until 1695 it was possible for persons under 21 years of age to hold seats in the British Parliament. In the time of James I, 40 members were under 20 years. Lord Chesterfield made his maiden speech before he was 21.

"Pussyfoot" Johnson, in response to a telegram of sympathy from the United Kingdom Alliance on the loss of his eye, said the liquor traffic put out 60,000 pairs of eyes every year.

When the Prince of Wales returned from his American tour, he stepped from the train at London and stood rigidly at salute before his father, the King. But the King reached out his arms and drew the young man to him and kissed him.

Because eight thousand miles of Northern Maine projects north of the remainder of the international boundary line, there is a move in eastern Canada to gain this territory, thus giving the Dominion a direct route to the sea.

Forest green is the new color of American Red Cross uniforms, by order of the Secretary of War.

Lloyd George was very unpopular during the Boer War. In a speech before a London school board he asked: "What do we get from Wales?" "Jonahs," replied a voice in the throng.

A department store in Toronto, Canada, banqueted 1,300 employees, each of whom was presented with a gold medal valued at twelve dollars, in recognition of their military service during the war. Every man was given his old job upon his release from the army. The slogan of this department store is, "The organization with a soul."

In three years the horses of New York have decreased from 107,000 to 75,000.

Agricultural departments of the United States and Canada are about to co-operate in protecting the Red River Valley from floods each year, which result in an annual loss of millions of dollars. The inundated regions are portions of Minnesota, Manitoba, and North Dakota.

"One of the world's greatest fools," the German National Congress has labeled the kaiser.

A new peril lies in wait for aviators flying in tropical countries. A French airman was recently attacked by a huge vulture while over Burma, and after a battle, chiefly one of defense for the aviator, he was forced to descend with a smashed propeller, and damaged wings.

The reclamation of 700,000 acres of Manitoba land has increased its value from \$1.50 to \$20 an acre.

Fifty per cent of the population of the Ukraine are suffering from typhus, typhoid and cholera, and general conditions are indescribable. The people have been reduced to eating grass. The better classes are in internment camps.

Holland's windmills, its most picturesque asset, are falling before the inroads of electrical development. The electric motor now pumps water in hundreds of wells where once the windmills flapped and creaked.

England is again in trade relations with her late enemy; the first consignment of German dyes have arrived.

The construction of the Kiel Canal, intended for the harborage of German war vessels, cost \$40,000,000, and is sixty-five miles long.

In Toronto, Canada, where there are 8,000 cases of smallpox, an Anti-Compulsory Vaccination League has been formed.

All of the states but ten have laws controlling the fitting of glasses for the eyes.

England has more than twenty peeresses who may become eligible for seats in the House of Lords though three-fourths of the number would probably be incapacitated by age or other infirmities.

Luke Dillon, of Philadelphia, who served 14 years in a Canadian penitentiary for dynamiting the Welland Canal, and is now seventy years of age, will enter the University of Pennsylvania next year.

"Because they couldn't keep business secrets," many women war workers of British banks and business houses have been replaced by men.

American hotels are not the only overcrowded ones. London is in the same plight, as are most large centers.

The kaiser's intimate, Geheimrath Johannes Krieger, has this to say of that former royalty:

"The Emperor feels that his own people have been, and are being, misled. He knows better than any other that the German people must have a ruler with an iron hand. They have never known how to rule themselves. They never can."

"The Emperor is not as other men. He lives on a plane far above the rest of mankind. He is a deeply religious man. His belief that he is in actual active touch with God is as profound today as it ever was. If his actions, affirmative or negative, seem, even to his closest intimates, incomprehensible, to him they are all consistent and part of his life's one aim—the good of his people."

It is not generally known that Walt Mason, the popular newspaper poet, is a Canadian by birth.

Rev. Percy Stickney Grant, of New York, preached a sermon in which he said, "Deport the editors who deliberately suppress news, deport those who despise democracy and try to keep the people down, but do not deport our workmen."

The people of England and Scotland seem to have been very profoundly impressed by the two minutes of silence which settled down on Britain on Armistice Day. The Edinburgh Weekly Scotsman has gathered a series of thumbnail sketches of the scenes, among which are the following:

In some Manchester hotels waiters stood still with plates in their hands.

In Ramsgate many well-dressed women knelt in attitudes of prayer on the dusty pavements.

An old man in a modest restaurant at Brighton bowed his head on a marble table and prayed audibly.

At the tolling of the bell at Parkhurst Prison all work ceased and convicts and wardens stood bareheaded.

More than 1,000 Eton boys, with their masters, removed their top-hats and stood reverently in the schoolyard.

The century-old bell of the Lutine (which is usually rung to signify the safety of a vessel long overdue) was tolled at Lloyd's.

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